



Utah Council of Teachers of English & Language Arts

Welcome, 2010 Conference Attendees!

It is such a beautiful time of year here in Utah and as this year's President I want to personally welcome you to our UCTE/LA Conference. A conference such as this takes an entire year of planning and the Conference Committee, headed by Melissa Heaton and her associate chair, Jamie Leite, has worked hard this past year to orchestrate a day that includes notable speakers including our keynote, Carol Booth Olson, Director of the U.C.I. Writing Project, University of California, Irvine, and a member of the National Writing Project Advisory Board as well as author of *The Reading Writing Connection*; and author, Kristen Chandler (YA Author of *Wolves, Boys, and Other Things That Might Kill Me*); as well as outstanding break-out sessions. Our goal is for you to leave the conference with many new ideas for your classroom and a renewed sense of enthusiasm for teaching and with a desire to share what you have learned with your students and fellow teachers.

As always we are looking for a spirit of volunteerism, as our organization is only as strong as its members. I have found Utah teachers to be among the most professional in the nation and we would love to have your input and help. This is your conference and if you have some good ideas for the coming year we would love to hear your ideas or better still, have you on the planning committee. Or, do you have a teaching idea to share? Watch the UCTE/LA website for the call for presenters for next fall and submit a proposal by yourself or with a group of teachers!

Working on the conference isn't the only way for you to participate in UCTE. We have many committees and have included an interest survey in your information folder so you can let us know if you'd like to work with us. Please fill out that form and hand it in; someone from the board will be in touch with you. We would love to have you join us in our efforts to enhance the teaching of language arts throughout Utah.

The UCTE/LA Board join me in wishing you a wonderful day where we are "united through literacy" at the conference!

Sincerely,
Sirpa Grierson
President, UCTE/LA